

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0687189

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RECEIVED	OCT 24 1978
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Colorado National Guard Armory

AND/OR COMMON

The Armory

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1301 Arapahoe Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Golden

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

059

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Armory, a Colorado Limited Partnership ✓

STREET & NUMBER

1216 Arapahoe Street

CITY, TOWN

Golden

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1700 Arapahoe Street

CITY, TOWN

Golden

STATE

Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (#30/02/0006)

DATE

Ongoing

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in 1913, the Colorado National Guard Armory is a single, detached building made of cobblestone and located on the northwest corner of Thirteenth and Arapahoe Streets in Golden, Colorado. The structure is basically rectangular--123 feet long, 52 feet wide, and 65 feet high. On the west or main facade there is a tower that projects about 20 feet outward and rises two stories above the basic structure. The tower itself is 24 feet square. The main facade has seven bays one of which is the tower projection having a door on the first story and windows above. Both the north and south (or end) facades have three bays while the east or back facade has seven bays. The north and south ends each have a three-foot stepped parapet gable, as do all four sides of the tower. The eaves on the other two sides of the main structure are closed and do not project over the vertical wall. The roof is flat. On all four corners of both the main structure and the tower, there are turrets which give the building the appearance of a castle. The turret on the northwest corner of the main building houses a chimney.

The windows on the first floor have a flat top as the surround is basically a plain lintel made of stone. The surround for the sills is a very plain stepsill made of concrete. The windows are two-sashed--one double hung unit with one pane of glass in each sash. The windows in the tower are of similar construction, but the windows in the second story have lintels shaped from two stones instead of one.

The main door is semi-elliptical and centered in the tower portion of the main facade. The arch surrounding the door has radiating voussoirs built of cobblestone while at the bottom of the arch there is a concrete block on each side. Above the door is a cement ledge and above that the words "Armory, N.G.C." From the lower part of the doorway there is a cement band that extends around the building.

In recent times plate glass windows and double glass doors have been added to the north side of the building, but except for this the exterior is basically unchanged, and thus the Armory maintains its historic integrity. It is alleged to be the largest cobblestone building in the world.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1913-present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James H. Gow, Architect
Charles J. Buckman, Overall Contractor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Armory Building is significant for its architectural features--particularly the uniqueness of the cobblestone construction in so large a building--for the information the structure may render about cobblestone construction, for its association with the Colorado School of Mines, and for its association with the Colorado National Guard.

The idea for an armory in Golden was first conceived about 1912 by Captain W. Goff Caples, U.S. Army, and Captain Joseph C. Taylor, commander of Company A, National Guard of Colorado. The War Department had sent Caples to inspect Company A as its troops participated in a summer camp near Golden. Caples and Taylor both regarded the facilities as inadequate, and as a result, they invited Dr. Victor C. Alderson, President of the Colorado School of Mines (located in Golden), and General John Chase, Adjutant General of Colorado, to a conference at which they all agreed that construction of an armory in Golden was a splendid idea.

Planning and building went forward over the next year. James H. Gow, a well-known Golden architect, drew up plans for a brick building, and Charles J. Buckman, also of Golden, became the overall contractor. Money, however, proved scarce; so it was decided to build the structure of cobblestones drawn from Clear Creek, which flows through town. Construction apparently began in January 1913 and was completed in June and the armory dedicated with appropriate pomp and circumstance.

Over the next few decades the Armory served as the headquarters of Company A of the Engineer Corps, the only such unit west of the Mississippi River, and with one exception, the only unit composed entirely of technical men. Students from the School of Mines made up about twenty percent of the outfit, and it is said that entire fraternities enlisted. Yet changes came later. After the structure ceased being used as an armory, it was sold in 1971 to Ron Weiszman, a Golden attorney, who restored and rehabilitated the structure for use as offices and small shops. This work was completed in 1974.

Architecturally, the building is very unusual. Cobblestones were commonly used in Colorado to build small, vernacular structures. What makes the Armory so

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Golden Globe, September 28, 1912; May 18, 1912.

Colorado Transcript, October 3, 1912.

Den Galbraith, "History of the Armory" (unpublished monograph in file 30/02/0006, Colorado State Historic Preservation Office).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Golden

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 481110 4400230

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

E

G

B

D

F

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 10, 11 and 12, Block 32, South Golden, County of Jefferson, State of Colorado.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Margo A. Neuhauser, Administrative Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Armory Realty Company

DATE

April 14, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

201 South College

TELEPHONE

(303) 221-5555

CITY OR TOWN

Fort Collins

STATE

Colorado

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William C. Johnson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

October 13, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William C. Johnson

DATE

12-18-78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

William H. Graham 12-17-78

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CONTINUATION SHEET Guard Armory ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

unique is the use of cobblestones on so large a scale and in such an ordered manner. It is said that this is the largest cobblestone structure in the world, although this contention is undocumented.